FRENCH.

TO THE

Monarchy, Church, and Trade

OF

ENGLAND.

A LETTER from a CITIZEN to a COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

THE DUTCH Better FRIENDS than the FRENCH, &c.

SIR,

WHEN I reflected upon her Majesties Speech to her Two Houses of Parliament, but this very last Session, in which she declar'd her Own Interest to be inseparable from that of the *States-General* of the *United-Provinces*; 'tis not without a Mixture of Indignation and Surprize that I hear those very People, who would be thought the Queen's best, if not her only Friends, most passionately desiring the Ruin and Destruction of that very Interest with which that of Her Majesty is so inseparably united. When I consider what Arts have been made use of, by some profligate Scribblers, to disguise real Truth, and scatter Lyes among the Mob, I am not much surpriz'd, if Plowmen and Mechanicks, if such as never Read a History, or saw a Map, should be wheedled into a fond Imagination, as if their Protestant Allies and last Friends were now become their most-suspected Rivals, if not their most dangerous Enemies: But, that you, Sir, who have had an Education above the Vulgar, who, 'tis to be hoped, have had your Views extended beyond the Stable and the Dog-kennel, that such as you should be for aggrandizing of the *French*, and look upon *Holland* as the only formidable Neighbour that we have;

that

this is what, I confess, amazes and confounds me. I am no Quaker, but that France has her Emissaries both in Scotland and Holland, whose Business it is to foment Divisions, to exasperate one Nation against the other, that so, by their mutual Quarrels and Contentions, they may both fall a Sacrifice to her Ambition. Should the two Maritime Powers be so far abandon'd of Common Reason, as to dash against each other, they must both necessarily be broken in pieces, and furnish their watchful Enemy with an Opportunity to triumph in their Destruction. This being the estate of our Affairs, and we having a restless Faction in the midst of us, who by Calumnies, Misrepresentations, and lying Pamphlets endeavour, to possess the Minds of the Common People with cruel Prejudices against their old Allies and Friends, I cannot but look upon it the Duty of every one that loves his Country, to endeavour, in his Station, the quenching those Flames which these Incendiaries are so active to kindle. To this End I have diverted my self a little, in drawing up an answer to those Objections, which, as you inform me, are in the Mouths of almost every Peasant and Mechanick. You will find, that my Arguments are all grounded on Matter of Fact, and that I have advanc'd nothing for which I have not produc'd my Authors, and such as are of a most establish'd Reputation. What Interpretation may be put by some on this Essay, I cannot tell; my Design, I am sure, is just and honourable, to disabuse the Ordinary sort of People; to let 'em see how grossly they have been impos'd upon by the Partisans of France and the Pretender; that so it may not be in the Power of our *new Allies* to make us fall out with our *old Friends*, but that we may be united in Affections, as well as we are in Interest.

1 *Obj.* The first Popular Objection against the *Dutch*, which you were pleas'd to take notice of, is this; *That they are Men of Antimonarchical Principles; That they encourage and abett a Republican Faction here at home, who only wait for Opportunity to subvert the Constitution, and erect a Commonwealth upon the Ruin of it.* As to the latter part of this Objection, it has nothing in the World but Noise and Clamour to support it. In all my Conversation, never

did

did I hear one Single Man deny the English Form of Government to be the best in the whole World; And could any such Criminal Correspondence, as is suggested, be prov'd against the Whigs, you may depend upon it, the Nation would quickly ring of the Discovery. 'Tis true, the Inhabitants of the United-Provintes are Members of Republick; they were born and educated in a Commonwealth, and 'tis very probable, may admire their own Constitution, looking upon it as most convenient for them in their Circumstances: But have we any Reason to be angry with them on this account? I am confident, you will determine in the Negative, when you consider, (1.) That their casting themselves at first into such a Model was the Effect, not of Choice, but absolute Necessity. (2.) That they have manifested themselves better Friends than the *French*, to the English Monarchy in general, and to the Person of Queen *ANN* in particular. (3.) If we are angry with them because they have a different Government from us, we must, for the same Reason, be angry with all Mankind.

1 *Anſ.* I affirm in the first place, that when the *Hollanders* form'd themselves into a Commonwealth, this was Matter of Necessity rather than of Choice. 'Tis not consistent with the intended Brevity of these Papers, to enter into a Detail of the Rise, Progress and Conclusion of the *Low-Country* Wars; let it suffice at present to remind you, that the United-Provinces were once Subjects to the King of *Spain*: That the Invasion of their Civil Liberties, and the inhuman Cruelties which those of the Reform'd Religion suffer'd, provok'd the poor Inhabitants to take up Arms in their own defence, and to withstand those Instruments of Cruelty that were made use of to oppress 'em. After many Tumults and Confusions, there was a Convention of the Estates at *Antwerp*, in the Year 1581, in which 'twas determin'd, That *Philip* King of *Spain*, by invading their Priviledges, and overthrowing their Constitution, had forfeited his Right to govern those Provinces; or, to use a modern Dialect, That he had broken the Original *Contract*, and the *Throne was become vacant*. But instead of moulding themselves into a Commonwealth, they at the same

[illegible] time Elected the Duke of [illegible] to be their Sovereign, [illegible] the King of Spain, to be their Soverein. [illegible] accepted their Invitation; but being [illegible] mour and Caprice, than by the Measures of Policy and Wisdom, and being guilty of an unpardonable [illegible] he quickly lost the Affections of his new Subjects. When he perceiv'd this, he retir'd into *Spain*, and quickly after Dyed there. The Provinces being once more without a Supreme Governour, they offer next to transfer their Allegiance to our Renowned Queen *Elizabeth* (b). She refus'd indeed to accept of this Propotal, but afforded them a very generous Assistance, and continued their Friend and Patroness to the Day of her Death. By this Account, Sir, you may see, that when the *Dutch* form'd themselves at first into a Commonwealth, 'twas because they could not obtain a King or Queen of their own, who was able and willing to protect 'em; and their erecting a Republick, was a Matter rather of Necessity than Choice.

2 *Anſ.* I am next to prove, that the *Dutch* have manifested themselves better Friends than the *French* to the *Britiſh* Monarchy. And here I hope you will allow this to be a true Maxim, that *A Friend is known in Adverſity*: This distinguishes a real Friend from a perfidious Flatterer, just as Fire separates Droſs from Gold. Who is there that will not flatter and careſs a King, while he maintains his Dignity, and is able to raiſe thoſe to Honour and Preferment who can inſinuate themſelves into his Affections? But certainly, he beſt deſerves the Name of *Friend*, who faithfully adheres unto him in his Diſtreſs, and Eſpouſes the Royal Intereſt when at the loweſt Ebb. Now, 'twas not many Years ago that the *Engliſh* Monarchy was overthrown by *Cromwel* and his Faction, the Royal Family Baniſhed, and King *Charles* the Second forc'd to wander up and down the World in an uncomfortable Exile: And if in theſe Circumſtances he was Treated with more Civility and Reſpect in

(a) *Vide* Stradam de Bello Belgico, Decad. 2. p. 179. Bentivoglio's Hiſt. of *Flanders*, p. 172. (b) Cambden's Hiſt. of Q. *Elizabeth*, p. 320, Ed. 4.

in *Ireland* than in *France*. I hope you will allow that I have fairly prov'd my Assertion. The Witness which I produce to this Purpose is above all Exception; 'tis the Renowned Lord *Clarendon*, a Person who attended his Royal Master in all his Misfortunes beyond the Seas, and writes of those things which he saw with his own Eyes.

We will first see what Manner of Friends the *French* were to the *British* Monarchy, during our late Intestine Wars. And here we are assured by this Noble Historian, "that the "Rebellion had been originally fomented, and afterwards "countenanced by them (*a*); that the *French*, according "to their Nature, were active and intent upon blowing "the Fire; that the Commotions in *Scotland* had been raised by the special Encouragement, if not the Contrivance "of Cardinal *Richelieu*; And that the *French* Embassador "Monsieur *la Ferté* dissembled not to have Notable Familiarity with those who govern'd most in the Two Houses, "and that he took all Opportunities to lessen and undervalue the King's Regal Powers, (*b*) and had done the "King all imaginable Disservice, (*c*): And is not this a Convincing Evidence of that Respect and Veneration these People bear to the *English* Crown?

Let us next see their Carriage towards the Person of King *Charles* the Second, who was forc'd to live some time as a Refugee amongst 'em, both during the Imprisonment of his Father, whilst only Prince of *Wales*, and after his Father's Murder, when he enjoy'd the empty Title of a King. Here the Lord *Clarendon* assures us, "it can hardly be believ'd, with how little Respect they Treated him, during "the whole time of his stay there (*a*). That he was never "Master of Ten *Pistols* to dispose of as he desir'd (*b*). And when there were Vigorous Efforts made, both in *Scotland* and *Ireland*, to rescue King *Charles* the First from his Captivity, and prevent the Subversion of the Government; when the Royal Party had their Expectation very much rais'd,

(*a*) *Clarendon's* History, *vol.* 3, *p.* 5. (*b*) Ibid. *vol.* 2. *p.* 91. (*c*) Ibid. *p.* 307.
(*a*) *Clarendon's* History, *vol.* 3. *p.* 26. (*b*) Ibid. *p.* 88.

mis'd, the Prime Miniſters in *France*, " was ſo far from gi-
" ving any Countenance or Warmth to their blooming
" Hopes, that he left nothing undone towards the de-
" ſtroying them, but the Impriſoning the Prince (c). Theſe
were the Civilities he met with in a more ſolid Manner at
Wolfe; nor was the Caſe alter'd, except for the worſe,
when by his Father's Death the Title of King was Devolv'd
upon him. Thus our Noble Author informs us, " That
" as the King had receiv'd no kind of Civility from *France*
" ſince his laſt coming, ſo it was notorious enough, that
" his Abſence was impatiently deſir'd by that Court: That
" tho' he had not been in any degree chargeable unto
" them, yet he was an Unwelcome Gueſt (d). When His
Majeſty firſt came to *Paris*, he had a little Room allow'd
him, in which the *Engliſh* Liturgy was read to him and
his Proteſtant Attendants, but this was quickly taken from
him; " Which, ſaid the Lord *Clarendon*, was another In-
" ſtance of the King's extream low Condition, and of the
" Higheſt Diſreſpect the Court of *France* could expreſs to-
" wards him (e). When *Cromwel* turn'd the Rump Parlia-
ment out of Doors, and ſet up himſelf Protector, there
was an endearing Correſpondence between Him and the
Prime Miniſter of *France*, " and ſuch mutual Offices per-
" form'd between them, as, with frequent Evidences of
" Averſion from the King and his Intereſt, made it very
" manifeſt to His Majeſty, that his Reſidence would not be
" ſuffer'd to continue longer in *France* (f): So that there
" could be no Doubt but that the King was heartily weary
" of being in a place where he was ſo ill Treated; where
" he liv'd ſo uncomfortably, and from whence he foreſaw
" that he ſhould ſoon be driven (g): 'Tis true, when there
was a Proſpect of his being reſtor'd to his Kingdoms, the
King of *France* ſent him a Compliment, and invited him to
paſs thro' his Territories; but the King knew that Nation
too well to truſt his Royal Perſon among 'em. " In the
" mean time it was no ſmall Pleaſure to His Majeſty, to
" find

(c) Ibid. p. 255. (d) Ibid. p. 251. (e) Ibid. p. 304.
(f) Ibid. p. 393. (g) Ibid. p. 393.

" [illegible] by the Ministers of a
" Great King, as ever his Dominions, out of which he
" had been expelled with so many Disobligations and In-
" dignities (a).

This, Sir, was the Entertainment which K. *Charles* the Second met with in the Court of the present French King, who, you must remember, was his near Kinsman, they two being Brothers and Sisters Children. And I must leave it to your maturer Thoughts, whether the *British* Monarchy may be more secure by an Alliance with such a Nation, than with other States and Provinces.

Let us now see, whether our banish'd Monarch met with fairer Quarters amongst the injur'd and revil'd *Dutch*. His first Arrival in *Holland* was during the Imprisonment of his Father, when, we are told, " That Prince was receiv'd by
" the States with all outward Respect, and treated by them
" four or five Days, at their Charge; His Royal High-
" ness every Night lodging in the Palace which belong'd to
" the States too (b). Whilst he was a Sojourner in *Holland*, the fatal News of his Father's execrable Murder was brought over into these Provinces. Now, if the *Dutch* had such an implacable Aversion to Monarchy, as some would fain make the World believe they have, they would have rejoic'd in this Change of Government amongst us: But, says that Noble Author I have so often cited, " The Truth is, it can
" hardly be conceiv'd with what a Consternation this ter-
" rible News was receiv'd by all, even by the Common Peo-
" ple of that Country: There was a Woman at the *Hague*,
" of the Middle Rank, who being with Child, with the
" Horrour of the mention of it, fell into Travail, and in
" it Died. There could not be more Evidence of a general
" Detestation than there was, amongst all Men, of what
" Quality soever. Within two or three Days, which they
" gave to the King's Recollection, the States presented them-
" selves in a body to His Majesty, to condole with him for
" the Murder of his Father, in Terms of great Sorrow. The
" States of *Holland* apart perform'd the same Civility to-
" wards

(a) *Clarendon's* Hist. p. 598. (b) Ibid. p. 627.

(d) Stow's Chron. vol. 2. p. 1031, 1032.
(e) Annals, vol. 10, p. 1011. (f) App. to Annals, vol. 10, p. 1013.

(e) Observations, &c. p. 75.

Towns,

* Appendix to the Annals of Q. Anne, Vol. 10, p. 91.

(a) Hayle's Obſervations, P. 311.

[illegible]

[illegible] hardly perfwade my [illegible]

[illegible] Cloths, that it amounts to an absolute Prohibition: They will take you of your Guinea and Crown-pieces, but not one Piece of Drapery will they take off your hands: Whereas the former below above a Million a Year in the Product of our Country. It can therefore admit of no dispute, which of these two are the best Friends to the British Commerce. 'Tis very well known, that our most valuable Trade is that which we carry on with Spain: 'Tis this that brings in Gold and Silver into the Kingdom; this is what the Dutch cannot rob us of, neither can they make any thing to supply the place of our Serges and long Ells. On the other hand, the Dutch may send their Linsey-woolsey Stuffs to Cadiz, and the West-Indies; and I wish they may not be found to be the Nation most favour'd, engross the Riches of America to themselves, and our Woollen Manufacture may not in time be prohibited by King Philip, as it has been by his Grandfather.

7 Obj. Another thing made use of to render the Dutch odious is, the Cruelties exercis'd by them upon some Englishmen in Amboyna, a little Island in the East-Indies, a-

bout

[illegible] from Holland. When [illegible]
[illegible] they are not [illegible]
[illegible] that [illegible]
[illegible] for this that the Planting Merchants may [illegible]
and cunfe you for their own Ends, put the Pipes [illegible]
they drunk and sibber your Prayers, and die you drunken [illegible]
like the Carrafe of a Dog, and so make us to [illegible]
your Souls to the Devil. Thus, Sir, we [illegible]
this: see this Man for whom [illegible] Confusion to
the Drink, drive the Man from whose [illegible]
publish your expos'd Secrecy to your Church and Country
[illegible]

The nine Objection against the Growth of this Nation is this, That they prevent their Subjects drinking the Wine to have us get Trade with France, by which they grow rich, and we impoverish'd.

Now, as to Matter of Fact, 'tis true, that a great many Ships laden with French Wines did take in [illegible] and [illegible] at Rochelle, Rochel, and other places, and sell them again in [illegible]. This is confess'd, and I yet am not without Hopes of satisfying you, that this Matter deserves not so great a Noise and Clamour as has been made about it.

I say, I would in the first place recommend it to your Consideration, that our Circumstances are vastly different from those of the Dutch, and that we stand not in need of foreign Liquors, as they do: You, Sir, have your Cellar crowded with Cyder, and may Drink a Bumper to the Church and Queen out of the Product of your own Land; but 'tis otherwise with the poor Hollanders, they have no Liquors to drink, but such as are imported from other Countries, or the Grain that makes 'em; nay, they have not so much as good clear Water of their own: Pray then from whence should they be supplied? Not from the Rhine as formerly, the poor Germans inhabiting the Banks of that noble River being forc'd to leave their Vineyards uncultivated, to beat their Pruning-hooks into Swords and Spears, to defend their own Throats from an inhuman Enemy; not from us Britains, we love the Juice of Barley too well our selves to spare much to others. So that these People seem to be under a necessity of importing *French Wine*, unless you

[illegible] with [illegible] Publick use of their [illegible] I might add, that their foggy Air and ill [illegible] was the most sensible: I grant, that a Chop or [illegible], or a Slice of Roast beef, may be pretty warm and comfortable in a Man's Stomach, tho' well digested only with Small Beer; but what you to dine with a Dutchman upon raw Cabbage, or a Platter of cold Salad, you would be apt to look upon a Glass of Bordeaux, or bright Champaign, as very requisite to correct the Crudities of such a Meal. The Observation of Sir William Temple is pretty favourable to our present Purpose, speaking of this People, as Those most subject to foreign Consumption, says he, in Peace, as Spices and Brandy, but that may be allow'd them, as to the only Pleasure they enjoy of all their Pains (a). To all which I might add, that by their Liquors, brought from France, our Armies in Flanders were supplied: And had you but one September Night in the Trenches, up to your Knees perhaps in Dirt and Mud, you would not think a Dram of Mum ill bellow'd upon those brave Fellows, who are every moment looking Ten Thousand Dangers in the Face.

2 *Def.* But if nothing of this Nature could be pretended, yet we could not justly exclaim against them for Trading with the Enemy, because we have done the same Thing our selves. One of the first Acts made by this Parliament, was to give leave for the Importation of *French* Wines. Now may the *Dutch* say, if they did ill, why did we follow them, if not, why do we condemn them? When the War was first Proclaim'd, 'twas against King *Philip*, as much as King *Lewis*, and it began with burning the *Spanish* Galeons at *Vigo*. Notwithstanding which, our Merchants traded to *Bilboa* and other Places, with which we were as much in War as with any Town in *France*: To which I might add, that the *English* living in *Ireland*, have, during the whole Course of the Wars, had an open and free Trade to *France*, importing *Wine* and *Brandy* in exchange for *Beef* and *Butter*. This I have been assur'd of by Gentlemen living all the Time

(a) Observations on the United Provinces, p. 209.

4 Obj. The next, and I think the moſt popular Objection against the Dutch is this, viz. that tho' we came generously into the War to help them in their Diſtreſs, yet they have thrown all the Burden of it upon our Shoulders, which they themſelves would have made with us of their Money; that they have rob'd us of our Money, but done little or nothing to promote the Common Cauſe. This is that Prejudice which has made the deepeſt Impreſſion on the Minds of the Common People. Pride and Luſt are things by which they are moſt feaſibly affected. Do but allure them with the Proſpect of eaſing them of their Taxes, and they will run into the moſt deſtructive Schemes; do but confidently affirm, that they have been cheated of their Coin by ſuch or ſuch great Men, their Rage is preſently kindled without waiting for a Proof, or expecting any Evidence. Thus you may remember in the Reign of King *William*, the Impatience of the People under Taxes, together with a groundleſs Clamour rais'd againſt that Prince, as if he had tranſported the Treaſures of the Nation into *Holland*, confirm'd him, contrary to his own ſenſe of things, to precipitate a Peace with *France*, wherein they carrying on the War till the King of *Spain*'s Death, and the expending 8 or 10 Millions then, would have ſav'd the Nation 50 Millions more.

But to give a direct Anſwer to this Objection, I will undertake to prove, (1.) That the *Engliſh* were as much concern'd to enter into the War as the *Dutch*, (2.) That they maintain'd more Soldiers againſt the Common Enemy than we did. (3.) That their Taxes lie incomparably heavier upon them, than ours do upon us. (4.) That they have not drain'd us of our Gold and Silver.

1 *Anſ.* In the firſt place, I affirm, that *England* was as much concern'd to enter into the preſent War as *Holland*. This I ſhall prove to you by the Authority, not of the ſecond

and

[illegible] in this House (you will observe against those [illegible] of Commons, and the [illegible] her Majesty's Arms to the Crown, who in every [illegible] in the Parliament 1702. I hope therefore you will allow the Majority of these Senates to be Men of Loyal Principles, and True Churchmen. But we will first consider the Queen's Declaration of War, in which amongst several other Reasons for her engaging, she assigns the following: "The French King has, to other Violences, added a great "Affront and Indignity to Us and Our Kingdoms, in taking upon him to declare the pretended Prince of Wales "King of England, Scotland, and Ireland; and has also in"fested Our Dominions contrary to the same Affront and Indigni"ty, as well as in his other Oppressions (a). So that we have been fighting to keep a Protestant Queen upon the Throne; and this is a thing we are more interested in than any other Nation in the World. A few Months after this, the House of Commons had Occasion to Compliment Sir Cloudesly Shovel, upon his great Success at Vigo; accordingly their Speaker, now Lord High-Treasurer of Britain, made him a very eloquent Harangue, in which he has this Expression, "The Wealth of Spain, and Ships of Plate, are by this "Victory, brought over to our safer Coasts (b.) Now if the War was just, 'twas unjust, for War always brings with it such a Train of Calamities upon Mankind, that nothing but unavoidable Necessity can justify any Prince or People engaging in it. In the latter end of that Year, the Commons presented an Address to her Majesty, desiring her to insist upon it, with the States-General, that a stop be put to all Correspondence with France and Spain; which, say they, "Your Commons are humbly of Opinion, is so absolutely "necessary for carrying on the just and unjust War wherein "in your Majesty is Engaged (c). The present House of Commons make use of the same Expression in their humble Representation presented to her Majesty on March the 4th last;

(a) Annals of Queen ANN, vol. 1. p. 30. (b) Ibid. p. 247.
(c) Annals of Queen ANN, vol. 1. p. 171.

(b) Appendix to Annals of Queen ANN, vol. 10. p. 91.
(c) Political State, &c. for May, 1712. p. 379. 380.

all those noble Stages that were made by the D. of Marlb. in three or four Campaigns, which was a most unexpected Success, not easily to be contrived. 'Twas at their Call that the Fortifications of the Towns thus taken were razed, and their Magazines fill'd. To all which I have this Consideration to add, that if you consult any Book of Geography, or any Map of Europe, you will find that the Dominions of her Britannick Majesty are twenty times as large as those of the States-General; their seven Provinces are commonly reckon'd no bigger than our four Western Counties. 'Tis true, these Provinces are fuller of Towns and Villages than most Countries in England; but then the City of London is three times as populous as Amsterdam, the greatest City belonging to the States. This is evident by the Bills of Mortality, which in the former amount in the most healthy Years to about 20 thousand, whereas in the latter, they seldom amount to more than between 6 and 7 thousand. Nay, Sir Will. Petty, who was a very ingenious Gentleman, and pretended much Skill in Political Arithmetick, undertakes to make it out, that the People of London are more than thirds as many as those in all the Towns and Villages of England (e.) I can hardly agree with this Gentleman in his Calculation. But without doubt, the Dutch must unite many of their biggest Cities before they can equal her Majesty's Metropolis in Number of Inhabitants. By this time I hope you may be fatisfy'd that you have no Reason to quarrel with the Dutch, as if they withdrew their Shoulders from the Burden, when, the Truth on't is, they actually maintain'd more Soldiers against the Common Enemy than we, tho' the War was as necessary for our safety as for theirs, and tho' their Territories bear no manner of proportion to those of her British Majesty.

3 *Ans.* This will appear yet more evident, if we consider that their Taxes are incomparably heavier than ours: To prove this Assertion, I will first produce the Testimony of Sir *Will. Temple*, K. *Charles* the Second's Ambassador at the Hague, a most accomplish'd Statesman, and one who wrote before

(e) Present State of the Universe, Edit. 2. p. 63.

before the late Differences between *Wales* and *Tunbridge* arose, and then give you a particular Account of their Impositions. Sir *William* tells us in general, "That "there is an Immensity of Taxes throughout the whole "State (*b*.) That they are oppress'd with the most cruel "Hardship and Variety of Taxes that was ever known un-"der any Government. That the Excise (upon all Com-"modities) is so great and general, that he hath heard it "observ'd at *Amsterdam*, that when in a Tavern a certain "Dish of Fish is eaten with the usual Sauce, above 30 several "Excises are paid for what is necessary to that small Service". I must leave it to your Judges Thereabouts, whether this be the Description of a People whose Circumstances are more easie than the rest of their Neighbours. For your further Satisfaction on this Head, I shall instance in a few of their many Taxes; the Particulars I present you with are taken out of a Book I have by me, Entitled, *The present State of the United Provinces*. You must understand then, that besides what we call the Land-Tax, which is heavier with them than with us, they pay Excise for every thing they eat, drink, use, or enjoy.

'The Impost upon all Corn ground in the Mills in *Hol-*'*land*, which every-body pays, without exception, amounts 'to 3*l*. 12*s*. for every Quarter of Wheat, to half as much 'for Rye, to 35*s*. for Barley and Oats (†). I suppose that by *Quarter*, my Author means a *Quarter of a Last*, which makes about 20 Bushels. This seeming to me a very extraordinary Article, I have consulted on this Head some Gentlemen of Sense and Learning, who have liv'd in *Holland*, by whom I am assur'd, that 'tis generally computed there, that the Duty on all Bread-Corn is equal to the prime Cost. To proceed.

The Excise on Beer is as follows: First, the Brewer pays 12*d*. a Barrel, private Families pay 20*d*. more, and Victuallers or Retailers pay another 20*d*. French Wines pay 6*d*. a Stoup,

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(*b*) *Temple's* Observations on the United Provinces, p. 108.
* Observations on the United Provinces, p. 114. † Ibid. p. 227.

[illegible] Years Old pays 2 d. a Month; every Horse above that Age, 3 d. a Month: Every Coach pays 10 l. a Year, and every little Boat 20 s. All Carts, Sleds or Wags that are Hir'd, pay One Penny in the Shilling of the Money they are sold for: All Wood used for Fuel pays 1 Penny in 8 of what it cost: Every Master pays 16 s. a Head Yearly for each Servant that he has in his Family, male or female: All Ships, Lands, and Houses that are sold by one Man to another, pay to the Government a 40th Penny of what they are sold for: Hangings and Household Stuff pay 1 Penny in 25; and Woollen Cloaths a 4th part of their Value (a). In one word, the Dutch pay Excise for Salt, Candles, Lead, Lime, Cloaths, Stones, there's not a Turf or Log of Wood in their Chimneys, not an Herb or Onion in their Gardens, but what pays a Duty (more or less) to the States. My Author assures me, that a Cow of 5 Years Old, if it be sold for "12 l. will have paid above 6 l. to the States; and, that "there is never a Dish comes to Table, but has paid Excise "above twenty times (b). These are the Impositions that our Neighbours are subject to in Times of Peace, which in such a War as this, are rais'd to a degree hardly to be believ'd. I have read and heard, from such Men and Authors as deserve Regard, that Land and Houses, at this time, pay 10 or 11 Shillings in the Pound of their intrinsick Value.

You will be apt to ask, it may be, how 'tis possible for People to up bear under such heavy Pressures, such Loads as the English would certainly sink under. To this I answer, 'Tis their extraordinary Industry and Parsimony that enables them to support such prodigious Taxes. A Burgher of Amsterdam will dine contentedly on a Red Herring, when a Citizen of London, of the same Condition, will scorn to sit down at a Table without a Surloin of Beef, or a Couple

(a) Present State of the United Provinces, p. 143, to p. 148.
(b) Ibid. p. 239. (c) Temple's Observations, &c. p. 143.

of

(g) Ibid. p. 240. (c) Ib. p. 80. (d) P. 80. (e) Ib. p. 81. (f) Ibid. p. 113.

own'd, that a great [illegible] Gold and
of our Coin [illegible]
[illegible] has been exported to pay those Armies abroad, that
nothing comparable to the Quantity that has been mis'd
about it, but this could by no means be avoided in carrying
on that War, which in the Opinion of this present Body of
Commons was abſolutely neceſſary. The Caſe in ſhort was
this, we muſt ſpend ſome of our Money, or loſe all our Lands.
Indeed, the Armies were for the moſt part paid by Bills
drawn on Merchants in *Amſterdam* and other places: And
the Dutch purchaſing of us many Hundred thouſand Pounds
worth of our Manufactures every Year, will bring back a-
gain the Coin that has been exported on that occaſion. But
that the Nation has not been ſo exhauſted as is pretended, is
evident to a Demonſtration, by thoſe Millions of Money
that were theſe two laſt Years thrown into the publick
Lotteries; 3 Millions 600000 *l.* were propoſ'd to be rais'd
that way the laſt Summer, and no ſooner were the Books
open'd, but the whole Sum was immediately ſubſcrib'd, as a
great deal more would have been, had there been but Room.
The true Reaſon why Money is ſo ſcarce among ordinary
trading People is, that the Demand for our Engliſh Manu-
factures is leſſen'd by War and Peſtilence abroad; and our
Rich Merchants and Monied Men chuſe rather to throw their
Caſh into publick Funds than employ it in Trade, or put it
into Tradeſmens Hands.

5 Obj. Another Prejudice againſt the *Dutch*, which the
Partiſans of *France* have been very induſtrious to infuſe in-
to Mens Minds, is this, That their Succeſs in Flanders has
render'd 'em *to proud and imperious: That ſhould they be allow'd*
the Barrier which they expect, they might maintain 50000 diſci-
plin'd Troops therein, the Neighbourhood of which would be dange-
rous to the *Church and Monarchy of England*: *That they muſt by*
no means be abaſed higher, our Prince reduc'd lower, leſt the
Balance of Power ſhould be deſtroy'd.

To remove this Prejudice, I hope to make it appear,
that it is grounded upon Miſinformation, and is purely ow-
ing to the Malice of ſome, and Ignorance of others. I
confeſs, it were to be wiſh'd that no ſtanding Forces were
kept on foot in Times of Peace, by any Potentate in *Europe*;
this would be the ſafeſt Expedient for us, but what is not to

b

[illegible] as there is no Spot of Ground [illegible]
World to which [illegible] Gentlemen will be continually [illegible]
in our power to prevent it. The Dutch will have the
Expence of providing Magazines, and [illegible]
in them, the Houſe of Auſtria cannot, and therefore of
neceſſity they muſt be poſſeſs'd by the French or Dutch. That
which I am preſent undertake to prove is, That (1.) tho' the
Dutch were poſſeſs'd of more of their Barrier Towns than
ever yet they demanded, their Power to miſchief us would
be incomparably leſs than that of the French King. (2.)
That a ſecure Barrier in Flanders is neceſſary to the Safety
of England as well as Holland. (3.) That the accepting a
Compact on us is inconſiſtent with the Conſtitution of a
Dutch Republick, but agreeable with the Genius and Nature
of the French Monarchy. And, (4.) That the former can
have no Pretence to invade us, when the latter may.

I Say, I am to prove, That the Power of the Dutch to
do us Miſchief is incomparably leſs than that of the French.
This will appear if we compare the one with the other, as
to the Extent of their Dominions, the Greatneſs of their
Revenue, and the Number of their Forces kept on foot,
both in Times of Peace and War.

We will firſt conſider France and Holland, as to the Extent
of their Dominions. The Rule which I ſhall govern my
ſelf by in making this Calculation is the *Atlas Geographus*,
it being the latelt Piece of Geography that we have, and a
Collection out of the beſt Authors who have written on
that Subject. I will conſider the Length and Breadth of
each Province in the *United Netherlands*, and then multiply-
ing one by the other, we may know how many ſquare
Miles there are in the whole, and ſee what proportion this
bears to the Kingdom of *France*.

	Square Miles.
Holland is computed 80 Miles long, 40 broad, making (*a*)	3200
Zealand 30 long, 17 broad, (*b*)	0510

Utrecht

(*a*) *Atlas Geographus*, vol. 1, p. 866. (*b*) Vol. 2, p. 893.

So that the whole comprehends of Square Miles, 1,[illegible]

Thus are all the Dominions the States-General have in Europe, except 2 or 3 Scattering Towns, which have no Territories belonging to 'em worth regarding. Let us now find the Dimensions of the Kingdom of France: Its Coast reckon'd 1200 Leagues Length and Breadth (d); Le Maire and others think by the Main Geographers, make it as much, or more (e); the Prefect Map of France makes a middle Computation, which I shall follow, and reckons its Length and Breadth to be 500 Leagues, or 600 Miles: This Number multiplied by it self, produces 360000 Square Miles. Now if you divide 360000 by 12672, the Quotient is 283 Section the Kingdom of France is Seven and twenty times bigger than all the Territories poſſeſs'd by the Dutch.

If it be objected, That France is not in all places deep inland, the Same may be ſaid of each of the United Provinces. That I have reckon'd poſſeſs'd 600 Miles inland, when in many places 'tis not 25; and you can conſider no Mean, in which the Diſproportion between the two States will not appear greater than I have repreſented it. I confeſs, were France, like the parched Deſarts of Arabia, or the frozen Lakes of Lapland, a wild uncultivated Wilderneſs, my Argument would conclude very little; but France is a populous Country, full of great Towns and Villages, and

(c) Ib. p. 897. (d) P. 900. (e) P. 908. (f) P. 912. (g) P. 916. (h) P. 920. (i) P. 924. (k) Defence of Rome, p. 2. (l) Atlas Geogr. vol. 2, p. 979. (m) P. 2.

(e) *Abr. Geog.* vol. 2, p. 1025. (d) Observations, &c. p. 227. (e) *Abr. Geog.* vol. 2, p. 1030. (f) *App. to Annals*, vol. 10, p. 91. (g) Political State for 1697, p. 318. (h) *Abr. Geog.* vol. 2, p. 1031, 1032.

[illegible] a Calculation of his Power, we shall find, that in the last War they were computed to amount to 300000 Horse, and 300000 Foot (c). Nor is there any Prince in Europe, if in the whole World, able to bring such an Army, and so well appointed, into the Field. But perhaps you will be ready to imagine, that in Time of Peace this Lyon Couches in his Den, with his Claws pared, and his Teeth fallen out of his Head. It may not therefore be unseasonable to my present Purpose to examine what Forces he maintains when he has no War lying heavy on his Hands; I shall make my Calculation from the present State of France, Printed in the Year 1687. When the King-dom had no Quarrel with any of its Neighbours, his most Christian Majesty had at that time in his pay 120 Regiments of Infantry (d). These Regiments consisted some of more, and others of fewer Battalions, and every Battalion was compos'd of 15 Companies, and 1 of Grenadiers, in all 16 Companies (e). Now, if we reckon 50 Men in a Company, and 2 Battalions and a half in a Regiment, the whole will amount to 204000 Men. Of these Regiments there were six Swiss, who had not above 1000 Men a-piece, and 2 of the Guards, for which reason we must deduct 8000, so there remains 196000 Foot. He had moreover at that time in constant Pay 40 Regiments of Cavalry, of which 12 consisted of 12 Companies a-piece, amounting in all, reckoning 50 to a Company, to 7200 Men; the other 28 Regiments consisted of eight Companies a-piece (f), making 32 11200; in all 18400 Horse. Besides all these, he had 13 Regiments of Dragoons, which, supposing 'em on the same foot with the Cavalry, will amount to 5100. So that in the midst of a profound Peace he had in Pay of Horse, Foot, and Dragoons, an Army of 219600 Men. 'Tis probable that the number of Soldiers in Regiments and Batallions now,

(c) Present State of France, p. 364. (d) P. 366. (e) P. 364.
(f) Atlas Geograph. vol. 2, p. 359.

2 *Def.* I am sure to mind you, that a Strong Barrier for the *Dutch* in *Flanders* against *France*, is necessary for the Safety of *England* as well as *Holland*. This may be demonstrated by Reason and Authority, and here I must desire you to look back upon the former Paragraph, and consider what a prodigious Number of Troops that Kingdom maintains in time of Peace. On the other hand, you know very well, what an Aversion both the Parliament and People of *Great-Britain* have to a Standing Army, as a thing destructive of their Liberty and Freedom. A small Acquaintance with Affairs must needs convince you, how unable an undisciplin'd Rabble is to withstand a Body of Regular Troops. So that our Security lyes in being Masters at Sea. This is what we, in Conjunction with the United Provinces may still be. But should the *French* King be once possess'd of *Flanders*, he may easily surprise and Conquer *Holland*: Nor is it possible for that small Republick to withstand Him. Being once possess'd of the *Dutch* Towns and Harbours, He is by Consequence Master of all the Ships and Naval Stores that are laid up in 'em. And having once United the Fleets of *Holland* with his own, 'tis a vain thing for us to pretend any longer to the Dominion of the Seas. He may then pour in above an Hundred Thousand Veteran Troops upon us from all Quarters: Nor will it be possible for us, without a Miracle, to withstand 'em. So that in truth we are as much concern'd to hinder the *French* from over-running *Flanders*, as he that dwells at one End of a Street, is to quench those Flames that are raging at the other. For as Sir *William Temple* very well observes, "if *France* "were once Master of *Flanders*, the Body of that Empire

would

(c) Temple's Observations, p. 80. (d) Hist. of England, vol. 3. p. 309. (e) Ibid. p. 360.

(d) Alder Dougl. Vol. 2. p. 1031, 1032.
(e) Annuls, vol. 10, p. 282. (f) App. to Annuls, vol. 10, p. 101.

Towns,

* Appendix to the Annals of Q. Ann, vol. 10, p. 91.

(c) Hugh's Observations, p. 211.

(66)

(g) Hist. of the Buccaneers, vol. 2, part 3, p. 61, &c.